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Training and research

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Uladzimir Gerus (Belarus)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled:

“Training and research:

“(a) United Nations University;

“(b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research”

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 26th, 33rd, 34th, 36th, 39th and 40th meetings, on 28 October and 3, 4, 10, 16 and 24 November 1998. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/53/SR.26, 33, 34, 36, 39 and 40). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 7th meetings, on 6, 8 and 9 October (see A/C.2/53/SR.3-7).

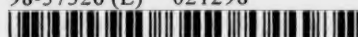
3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 96 (a) United Nations University

Report of the Council of the United Nations University¹

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations University (A/53/408)

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/53/31).*



Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations University (A/53/392)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting to the members of the General Assembly his comments to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations University (A/53/392/Add.1)

Item 96 (b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research²

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/53/534)

4. At the 26th meeting, on 28 October, the Rector of the United Nations University made an introductory statement. The representative of the Joint Inspection Unit also made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/53/SR.26).

5. At the 34th meeting, on 4 November, introductory statements were made by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research as well as by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Institute (see A/C.2/53/SR.34).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.24 and Rev.1

6. At the 33rd meeting, on 3 November, the representative of *Japan*, on behalf of *Algeria, Australia, Benin, Brazil, Ethiopia, Iceland, Japan, Jordan, Lesotho, the Federated States of Micronesia, Monaco, Nicaragua, Peru, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Thailand and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkmenistan*, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations University" (A/C.2/53/L.24), which read:

"*The General Assembly,*

"*Reaffirming* its previous resolutions on the United Nations University,

"*Welcoming* the appointment of Mr. Hans van Ginkel by the Secretary-General in September 1997 as the fourth Rector of the United Nations University,

"*Having considered* the report of the Council of the United Nations University,³ the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations University,⁴ the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations University⁵ and the comments of the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations University,⁶

"*Expressing its deep appreciation* for the voluntary contributions made to date by Governments and other public and private entities in support of the University,

² Ibid., Supplement No. 14 (A/53/14).

³ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/53/31).

⁴ A/53/408.

⁵ See A/53/392.

⁶ See A/53/392/Add.1.

"Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the Rector of the United Nations University in intensifying his interaction with United Nations Headquarters in the context of the development and implementation of a University-wide strategic plan which would help the University determine an overall strategic direction for the future,

"Noting also with appreciation the efforts made by the Rector in initiating a self-assessment of the University,

"1. Welcomes the completion of the review of the United Nations University carried out by the Joint Inspection Unit and the internal assessment conducted by the Ad Hoc Committee of the University's Governing Council;

"2. Takes note with appreciation of the steps taken by the Council and the Rector of the United Nations University to promote the work and the visibility of the University, particularly among Member States, the United Nations and its agencies, through such measures as organizing a series of public forums for the purpose of disseminating the results of its research, and requests them to further intensify such efforts;

"3. Requests the Council and the Rector to continue intensifying their efforts to improve the University's interaction and communication with other bodies of the United Nations system and to continue their efforts to avoid unnecessary duplication of work within the system;

"4. Also requests the Council and the Rector to enhance further coordination and complementarity between the University's research and training centres and its programmes;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General, in this connection, to continue his consideration of innovative measures to improve the interaction and communication between the University and other bodies of the United Nations system and to ensure the integration of the work of the University into all relevant activities of the system, taking into account General Assembly resolution 51/187 of 16 December 1996, so that the United Nations system may draw more extensively upon the work of the University, and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

"6. Also requests the Secretary-General to encourage the further participation of the University in the work of the United Nations, and requests him, taking into account resolution 51/187, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the further participation of the University in the activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary machinery, as well as through other existing structures and modalities for communication, interaction and synergy;

"7. Requests the Council and the Rector, taking into account resolution 51/187, to continue to make further efforts to ensure the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the activities of the University, as well as its financial transparency and accountability, and to intensify efforts to augment its Endowment Fund and to find innovative ways to mobilize operating contributions and other programme and project support;

"8. Appeals to the international community to make voluntary contributions to the University, in particular to the Endowment Fund."

7. At the 39th meeting, on 16 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Burak Özügergin (Turkey), informed the Committee of the outcome of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution and drew the Committee's attention to a revised draft resolution entitled "United Nations University" (A/C.2/53/L.24/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.24 and *Austria* (on behalf of the States Members

of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), *Azerbaijan, Chile, Cyprus, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Tunisia* (see A/C.2/53/SR.39).

8. Also at the 39th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.24/Rev.1 (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.32 and A/C.2/53/L.44

9. At the 36th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of *Indonesia*, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and *China*, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/53/L.32), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 47/227 of 8 April 1993, 48/207 of 21 December 1993, 49/125 of 19 December 1994, 50/121 of 20 December 1995, 51/188 of 16 December 1996 and 52/206 of 18 December 1997,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General⁷ and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the activities of the Institute,⁸

"Welcoming the successful restructuring of the Institute and the recent progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the improved cooperation that has been established with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

"Underlining the need for all the United Nations training and research institutions to avoid duplication in their work,

"Expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

"Noting that in certain cases contributions to the General Fund have not been commensurate with the increased participation of the developed countries in the training programmes, and underlining the need to urgently address this discrepancy,

"Reiterating that the funding of training programmes offered at the specific request of States or departments and units of the Organization and other organs of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies should be arranged by the requesting parties,

"Recognizing that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

"1. Takes notes of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director;

"2. Reaffirms the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations

⁷ A/53/534.

⁸ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/53/14).

and the training requirements of States and the pertinence of research activities related to training undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

"3. *Stresses* the need for the Institute to further strengthen its cooperation with other United Nations institutes and relevant national, regional and international institutes;

"4. *Also stresses* the need for continuity in the management of the Institute in order to ensure efficient and effective completion of the process of restructuring and revitalization;

"5. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in the light of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute and increased participation in the training programmes;

"6. *Stresses* the need for better coordination among the main training and research institutions of the United Nations system, and, in this context, notes the survey prepared by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

"7. *Requests* the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in this regard, to prepare an assessment of the survey with a view to (a) highlighting the lessons learned from the responses already received, (b) providing a qualitative assessment of pedagogical methods followed by these institutions in the provision of their training services, and (c) highlighting the complementarities and synergies that were apparent in the survey;

"8. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, especially for developing countries, consistent with the division of labour;

"9. *Underlines* the need to further develop and expand the scope of these partnerships, particularly at the country level;

"10. *Requests* the Board of Trustees to attract, to the extent possible, experts from developing countries for the preparation of the relevant training materials for the programmes and activities of the Institute;

"11. *Calls on* the Secretary-General to continue to explore all possible ways and means to provide additional facilities to the Institute for maintaining its offices and for conducting programmes and training courses, which are provided at no cost to States, and to their representatives accredited to United Nations offices in New York and at Nairobi, Geneva and Vienna;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Institute, as well as with the United Nations funds and programmes, to continue to explore ways and modalities to systematically utilize the Institute in the execution of training and capacity-building programmes;

"13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

10. At the 40th meeting, on 24 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Burak Özügergin (Turkey), introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations

Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/53/L.44), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.32.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.44 (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

12. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Japan and Australia (see A/C.2/53/SR.40).

13. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.44, draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.32 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

14. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the United Nations University,

Welcoming the appointment of Mr. Hans van Ginkel as the fourth Rector of the United Nations University, by the Secretary-General in September 1997,

Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University,⁹ the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations University,¹⁰ the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations University as transmitted by the Secretary-General¹¹ and the comments of the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations University,¹²

Bearing in mind the need to ensure a coordinated system-wide approach to training and training-related research issues as well as to establish a coherent strategy for building on common fields of interest and complementarities between the various training and research institutions within the United Nations system,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the voluntary contributions made to date by Governments and other public and private entities in support of the University,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the Rector of the United Nations University in intensifying his interaction with United Nations Headquarters in the context of the development and implementation of a University-wide strategic plan which would help the University determine an overall strategic direction for the future, and, in this context, encouraging him to further enhance interdisciplinary research, as recommended in the comments of the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit,¹²

⁹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/53/31).

¹⁰ A/53/408.

¹¹ See A/53/392.

¹² See A/53/392/Add.1.

Noting also with appreciation the efforts made by the Rector in initiating a self-assessment of the University,

1. *Welcomes* the completion of the review of the United Nations University carried out by the Joint Inspection Unit and the internal assessment conducted by the Ad Hoc Committee of the University's governing Council and the comments of the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the steps taken by the Council and the Rector of the United Nations University to promote the work and the visibility of the University, particularly among Member States, the United Nations and its agencies, through such measures as organizing a series of public forums for the purpose of disseminating the results of its research, and requests them to further intensify such efforts;

3. *Welcomes* the progress made by the University in contributing to the work of the United Nations, and requests the Council and the Rector to continue intensifying their efforts to improve the University's interaction and communication with other relevant bodies of the United Nations system and to continue their efforts to avoid unnecessary duplication of work within the system;

4. *Requests* the Council and the Rector to enhance further coordination and complementarity between the University's research and training centres and its programmes, keeping in mind the relevant recommendations of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Training institutions in the United Nations system: programmes and activities";¹³

5. *Recognizes* the importance of creating linkages, collaboration and cooperation with other research institutions and universities in developing countries to facilitate the exchange of experience and best practices so as to mainstream the perspective of developing countries in the activities of the University;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this connection, to continue his consideration of innovative measures to improve interaction and communication between the University and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, to ensure that the work of the University is taken into account in all relevant activities of the system, taking into account General Assembly resolution 51/187 of 16 December 1996, so that the United Nations system may draw more extensively upon the work of the University, and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

7. *Welcomes* the intention of the University to strengthen its policy-analysis and capacity-building activities in conjunction with the continuation of fundamental research and reflection in the strategic plan now being developed by the University for 1999-2002;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the further participation of the University in the work of the United Nations, and also requests him, taking into account resolution 51/187, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on such further participation of the University in the activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary machinery, as well as through other existing structures and modalities for communication, interaction and synergy;

9. *Urges* the University, in its allocation of fellowships, to increase the number of researchers from developing countries, thereby enabling them to benefit from the knowledge, expertise and skills of the University and enhance capacity-building efforts in developing countries, particularly in educational and research institutions;

¹³ See A/52/559.

10. *Requests* the Council and the Rector, taking into account resolution 51/187, to continue to make further efforts to ensure the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the activities of the University, as well as its financial transparency and accountability, to intensify efforts to augment its Endowment Fund and to find innovative ways to mobilize operating contributions and other programme and project support;

11. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the University, including its research and training centres and programmes, and in particular to its Endowment Fund.

Draft resolution II

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/227 of 8 April 1993, 48/207 of 21 December 1993, 49/125 of 19 December 1994, 50/121 of 20 December 1995, 51/188 of 16 December 1996 and 52/206 of 18 December 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General¹⁴ and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the activities of the Institute,¹⁵

Welcoming the successful restructuring of the Institute and the recent progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the improved cooperation that has been established with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

Noting the relevant recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in its report entitled "Training institutions in the United Nations system: programmes and activities",¹⁶

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

Noting that contributions to the General Fund of the Institute have not increased along with the increased participation of the developed countries in the training programmes, and underlining the need to urgently address this discrepancy,

Reiterating that the funding of training programmes offered at the specific request of States or departments and units of the Organization and other organs of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies should be arranged by the requesting parties,

Recognizing that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and training and underlines the need for the United Nations training and research institutions to avoid duplication in their work;

2. *Reaffirms also* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the

¹⁴ A/53/534.

¹⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/53/14).*

¹⁶ A/52/559.

training requirements of States, and the pertinence of research activities related to training undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

3. *Stresses* the need for the Institute to further strengthen its cooperation with other United Nations institutes and relevant national, regional and international institutes;
4. *Also stresses* the need for continuity in the management of the Institute in order to ensure efficient and effective completion of the process of restructuring and revitalization;
5. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;
6. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to continue its efforts to address the discrepancy between the contributions to the General Fund of the Institute and participation in its programmes;
7. *Stresses* the need for enhanced coordination between the main training and research institutions of the United Nations system, based on an effective division of labour among these institutions;
8. *Notes* the survey prepared by the Institute of training institutes and training programmes within the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Institute, to prepare from within existing financial resources, an assessment of the survey with a view to highlighting the lessons learned from the responses already received, providing a qualitative assessment of pedagogical methods followed by these institutions in the provision of their training services and highlighting the complementarities and synergies that were apparent in the survey;
9. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, consistent with the division of labour;
10. *Underlines* the need to further develop and expand the scope of these partnerships, particularly at the country level;
11. *Requests* the Board of Trustees to attract, to the extent possible, experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the preparation of the relevant training materials for the programmes and activities of the Institute;
12. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to explore all possible ways and means to provide additional facilities to the Institute for maintaining its offices and for conducting programmes and training courses that are provided at no cost to States and to their representatives accredited to United Nations offices in New York and at Nairobi, Geneva and Vienna;
13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Institute, as well as with the United Nations funds and programmes, to continue to explore ways and modalities to systematically utilize the Institute in the execution of training and capacity-building programmes;
14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.